

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. Claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 7 and 11 has been amended to more clearly recite features of the present invention. Support for the amendment to the claims can be found throughout the specification and drawings. No new matter has been presented. Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-20 will be pending herein upon entry of this amendment.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 17-20. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5, 7, and 9-16 are also in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Small (US 6,326,766); and claim 6-8 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Small in view of Kfouri (US Patent 6,049,192). To the extent these grounds of rejection might be applied to the claims now pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 now additionally recites a battery drawer cover that is separately secured within the body of the claimed apparatus, and wherein the ejection mechanism comprises a biasing means mounted to the battery drawer cover. These features are similar to the features deemed allowable in claim 17, and thus, for at least that reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims should also be in condition for allowance.

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Independent claim 11 has been amended to recite that the battery drawer is held captive in the body in the open state. Paragraph [0027] of the present application expressly describes that being held captive precludes total separation of the battery drawer from the body. None of the cited prior art appears to disclose this feature, let alone in combination with the other features of the claimed invention.

Based at least on these reasons, the pending grounds of rejection should be withdrawn.

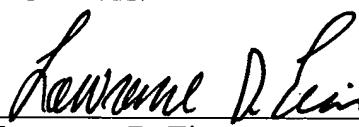
In view of the foregoing all the claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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